

the inner surface so that deployment of an air bag cushion causes the deployment region to open along the at least one score for deployment of the air bag cushion.

Claim 33. (Amended twice) A method for forming a hidden, integral passenger air bag door in a portion of an instrument panel cover, comprising:

vacuum forming the instrument panel cover having an inner surface and an opposing outer surface defining a single uniform layer; and

forming a deployment region in the inner surface of the instrument panel cover by contacting only the inner surface with at least one scoring device after initiation of the vacuum formation of the instrument panel cover creating at least one score therein, but prior to the cooling thereof, the at least one score defining the deployment region and providing a weakened tear pattern in the inner surface wherein the deployment of an air bag cushion causes the deployment region of the instrument panel cover to tear open along at the at least one score for deployment of the air bag cushion.

Claim 34. (Amended twice) A method for forming a hidden, integral passenger air bag door in a portion of an instrument panel cover, comprising:

applying a quantity of thermoplastic material to a vacuum forming tool;

vacuum forming the instrument panel cover having an inner surface and an opposing exterior surface defining a single uniform layer; and

forming a deployment region in the inner surface of the instrument panel cover by contacting only the inner surface with at least one scoring device after initiation of the vacuum formation of the instrument panel cover creating at least one score therein, the at least one score defining the deployment region and providing a weakened tear pattern in the inner surface wherein the deployment of an air bag cushion causes the deployment region of the instrument panel cover to tear open along at the at least one score for deployment of the air bag cushion, the deployment region being formed after or during the vacuum forming of the instrument panel, but prior to the cooling thereof.